IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the heading at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten heading:

~~CROSSREFERENCE~~ CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-11, as follows:

The word[[,]] "streaming distribution[[,]]" means that when audio and video images are distributed on the Internet, they are played back not after the user has completed to download the file but while the user [[are]] is downloading it. Accordingly, even motion-video and audio data with large volume of data can be played back without a wait.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 6, as follows:

A streaming client 106 receives the metadata transmitted from the server device 101 through the network 102 and sends it to a metadata decoder 107 in sequence. The streaming client 106 controls the communication with the server device 101 with reference to the time stamp of video in playback mode inputted from the video decoder 105. Here, the word[[,]] "time stamp[[,]]" denotes the time of playback from the initial time when a head moving image is played back, which is also called video time.

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, lines 15-23, as follows:

Object-area data 203 is information for specifying in which area the object exists at any given time. For the data, a mask image train can be used which indicates an object area in each frame or field of video. More efficient method is MPEG-4 arbitrary shape coding (ISO/IEC 14496) in which a mask image train is compression-coded. When the object area may be approximated by a rectangle, an ellipse, or a polygon having a relatively small number of apexes, the method of ~~Patent Document 1~~ JP-A-11-20387 can be used.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 15, as follows:

The metadata decoder 107 receives the positional coordinates sent from the user interface 110, the time stamp of the video that is now displayed sent from the video decoder 105, and object data sent from the streaming client 106 through the network 102. The metadata decoder 107 then specifies an object indicated by the user using these information. For this purpose, the metadata decoder 107 first processes the object-area data 203 in the object data and produces an object area at the inputted time stamp. When object-area data is described by the MPEG-4 arbitrary shape coding, a frame corresponding to the time stamp is decoded, and when the object area is approximately expressed by a figure, a figure at the time stamp is specified. It is then determined whether the inputted coordinates exist within the object. In the case of the MPEG-4 arbitrary shape coding, it is sufficient to determine the pixel value at the coordinates. When the object area is approximately expressed by a figure, it can be determined by a simple operation whether or not the inputted coordinates exist within the object (for more detailed information, refer to ~~Patent Document 1~~ JP-A-11-20387). Performing the process also for other object data in the metadata decoder 107 allows a determination on which object is pointed to by the user or whether the object pointed to by the user is out of the object area.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 16-21, as follows:

When an object pointed to by the user is specified, the metadata decoder 107 allows an action described in the script data 202 of the object, such as displaying a designated HTML file and playing back a designated video. The HTML file and the video file may be ones sent from the server device 101 through the network 102, or ones on the Internet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, lines 20-21, as follows:

The contents file may also be deleted at the same time when object data that refers to the contents file is deleted.

Please amend the paragraph at page 24, lines 4-7, as follows:

When the object-area data 203 is described by the method of ~~Patent Document 1~~ JP-A-11-20387, different time stamps can be given in units of the interpolating function of the apexes of a figure that indicating an object area.